BAD
SUKI

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

BAD SUKT

IN THE TV MONITOR OFFICE OF A WEST END GAMBLING CLUB

WILLIE GARVIN'S WON THREE HUNDRED AT BLACKJACK IN THE LAST HOUR, MR. BENNET

YOU EXPECT HIM TO *LOSE*?...

HE'S A COMPUTER! REMEMBERS EVERY CARD DEALT AND CAN RECKON THE ODDS TO THREE DECIMAL PLACES— SO BE GLAD HE JUST CALLS IN SOMETIMES FOR POCKET MONEY!

1462

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

I DID, BENNY, AND THEY ASKED ME TO COME AND PLAY 'ERE

DO ME A FAVOUR, WILLIE, GO PLAY AT SANDHAM'S CLUB— *PLEASE*?

BUT I'M ON ME WAY NOW

FINE! NICE TO SEE YOU GO, WILLIE, AND COME BACK SOON— LIKE NEXT YEAR MAYBE?

IN THE TREE-LINED SQUARE WHERE WILLIE'S CAR IS PARKED

JUST GONE TWO... MIGHT AS WELL GO 'OME AND GET SOME SLEEP

HEY, YOU WITH THE TWO HEADS... YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL... YOU WANNA SEE ME DIVE?

1463

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

YOU FALL FROM THERE AN' YOU'VE GOT A GOOD CHANCE OF BREAKING YOUR NECK

FALL?

I'M GONNA *DIVE*, MAN— A DOUBLE SOMERSAULT WITH A HALF TWIST... STAND CLEAR OF THAT LAKE

BLIMEY, SHE'S ON A TRIP! LSD!

AS THE GIRL PLUNGES HEADFIRST TOWARDS A LITTLE PUDDLE BELOW...

1464

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE GARVIN MANAGES TO BREAK THE GIRL'S FALL BUT GOES DOWN HIMSELF

YOU STUPID LITTLE PERISHER—!

SHE'S OUT COLD, GOT A BUMP ON THE 'EAD, MAYBE... SO NOW WHAT? IF I CALL AN AMBULANCE THEY'LL FIND SHE'S HIGH ON LSD...

TEN MINUTES LATER, AT THE PENTHOUSE BLOCK WHERE MODESTY BLAISE LIVES

'ALLO, GEORGE— RING MISS BLAISE TO SAY I'M ON ME WAY UP WITH A BIT OF TROUBLE, AND FORGET YOU SAW THIS GIRL, WILL YOU?

WHAT GIRL, MR. GARVIN?

1465

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SORRY TO WAKE YOU, PRINCESS, BUT THIS KID'S ON AN LSD TRIP— I CAUGHT 'ER MAKING A TWENTY-FOOT DIVE INTO A PUDDLE OF WATER
ONE AND FOURPENCE IN CASH, A LIPSTICK, AND HALF A DOZEN REEFERS— YOU CAN PUT THOSE DOWN THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL, WILLIE
WHY THE HELL DID YOU BRING HER HERE?
WELL, I DIDN'T WANT TO LAND 'ER IN TROUBLE WITH THE POLICE, SO I—UM—I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT GIVE 'ER A TALKING-TO, PRINCESS
ALL I CAN TELL HER IS TO STOP BEING A FOOL— YOU THINK SHE'LL LISTEN?
1466

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WE'LL GET HER CLEANED UP BEFORE SHE COMES ROUND ENOUGH TO ARGUE— I'LL GIVE HER A BATH, AND YOU CAN TAKE HER CLOTHES DOWN TO THE ALL-NIGHT LAUNDRETTE, WILLIE
ME? BUT I'VE NEVER WORKED ONE OF THOSE MACHINES, PRINCESS! AND BESIDES, I MEAN, ME WITH THESE CLOTHES— WHAT'S IT GOING TO LOOK LIKE?
FUNNY
ALL RIGHT, OFF YOU GO, WILLIE—I'LL HAVE HER CLEAN AND IN BED BY THE TIME YOU'RE BACK
1467

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE RETURNS FROM THE ALL-NIGHT LAUNDRETTE

I GOT HER CLOTHES DONE, PRINCESS— DID SHE COME ROUND?
SHE STARTED TO, BUT I MANAGED TO GET A COUPLE OF PILLS DOWN HER— SHE'LL SLEEP FOR A GOOD TWELVE HOURS
SORRY I WAS STROPPY WITH YOU FOR BRINGING HER HERE, WILLIE LOVE —I JUST FEEL SO DAMN HELPLESS DEALING WITH A KID ON DRUGS
ME TOO
LOOK AT HER... SHE'S PLAIN, SHE'S BROKE, AND SHE CAN'T COPE... SO SHE DROPS OUT TO GET AWAY FROM HERSELF... AND IF WE TRY TO HELP, SHE'LL HATE US
1468

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IT IS EVENING WHEN THE HIPPY GIRL WAKES, TO FIND HERSELF IN STRANGE SURROUNDINGS

LUSH PAD! AND I'VE BEEN WASHED— EVEN MY HAIR!
MY CLOTHES! THEY'RE RUINED— SOME CLOWN'S HAD THEM CLEANED!
FIVE MINUTES LATER...
HALLO, YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR DINNER
WHAT GOES ON? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
1469

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE ARRIVE AT THE CLOUD NINE CLUB — SUITABLY DRESSED

KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR THE GIRL, WILLIE — MIGHT BE A LITTLE TROUBLE IF SHE RECOGNISED US

AT THE BAR...

I'LL 'AVE BACARDI AN' COKE — WHAT YOU WANT, DOLL?

SAME

1478

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

FOR AN HOUR MODESTY AND WILLIE SIT WATCHING THE SCENE IN THE CLOUD NINE CLUB

No sign of that kid Amanda

No sign of anyone pushing dope...

I'd like to trace the girl ... no use trying to get her off the hook, but I'm interested in where she gets her supplies

YOUNG MAN, YOUNG WOMAN — HAVE YOU THE COURAGE TO PUT THIS EVIL WAY OF LIFE BEHIND YOU?

1479

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

STARTLED, MODESTY AND WILLIE KEEP TO THE ROLES THEY ARE PLAYING

WHO'RE YOU, THEN? THE CABARET?

NO, MY DEAR, I'M JUST GERTRUDE PORTER, A FOOLISH OLD SPINSTER TRYING TO HELP POOR LOST SOULS LIKE YOU

READ THIS LITTLE BOOK OF *SHINING THOUGHTS* — PERHAPS IT WILL HELP YOU TO TURN ASIDE FROM THE WAYS OF WICKEDNESS

DARENT BE NICE TO THE POOR OLD DUCK...

LOOK, GO AN' BUG SOMEONE ELSE, MA

MISS GERTRUDE PORTER WANDERS TO ANOTHER TABLE...

DON'T TELL ME *SHE'S* PART OF THE SCENE

YOU BEEN AWAY, DOLL? GOOD GERTIE'S PART OF THE SCENE IN ALL THE SWINGING CLUBS NOW

1480

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

GOOD GERTIE? THAT'S A WEIRD NAME

WEIRD CHARACTER — SHE GOES AROUND THE WAY-OUT JOINTS PREACHIN' AND HANDING OUT WEIRD LITTLE BOOKS ON KICKING GIN AND ALL THAT JAZZ

BUT SHE'S GOOD FOR LAUGHS, SO WHO CARES?

DAMN... I WANTED TO KEEP HIM TALKING AND ASK IF HE KNEW AMANDA

I'LL GO AND CHAT THE BARMAN, PRINCESS — HE MIGHT KNOW 'ER

1481

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE TRIES TO PUMP THE BARMAN

I KNOW A KID CALLED AMANDA? BLONDE, REAL COOL—

SHE COMES IN SOMETIMES... NOT TONIGHT

TOO BAD... I GOT SOMETHING TO TELL HER... YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HER NUMBER, OR WHERE SHE'S GOT A PAD?

I might— but I don't answer too many questions. It's bad Suki

BAD WHAT?

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT BAD SUKI MEANS, YOU'RE NOT ON THE SCENE, MAN— BUT KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS AND YOU'LL FIND OUT THE HARD WAY

1482

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

DID THE BARMAN TALK?

SAID IT WAS BAD SUKI TO ASK QUESTIONS

BAD SUKI? MUST BE A NEW PIECE OF JARGON— I DON'T KNOW THAT ONE, WILLIE

NOR ME, BUT 'E MADE IT SOUND NASTY— SO NOW WHAT?

WE COULD KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS, BUT LET'S TRY SOMETHING ELSE FIRST...

1483

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THERE'S A MAN IN A GREEN ANORAK WHO WAS WATCHING US... IS HE FOLLOWING?

LOOKS LIKE IT

LET'S MAKE SURE... TURN DOWN THE ALLEY HERE, WILLIE

WANT TO NAIL 'IM AND ASK A FEW QUESTIONS, PRINCESS?

YES, I WANT TO KNOW WHY HE'S INTERESTED IN US, AND WHAT BAD SUKI MEANS... AND IF HE'S CARRYING ANY JUNK ON HIM

1484

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN THE DINGY ALLEY, MODESTY AND WILLIE WAIT FOR THE MAN IN THE ANORAK...

TAKE HIM QUIETLY BUT DON'T KNOCK HIM COLD, WILLIE— I WANT HIM IN SHAPE TO TALK

RIGHT... 'ERE HE COMES

'ALLO! HE'S BEEN JUMPED!

DAMN— GET THEM SORTED OUT BEFORE THEY DO TOO MUCH DAMAGE

1485

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE TURN BACK TO HELP THE MAN WHO HAS BEEN TAILING THEM

THEY'RE PUTTING THE BOOT IN...

TAKE THIS ONE, WILLIE

AS THE THUG IS SWUNG ROUND OFF BALANCE...

RIGHT

1485

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

A COSH SWINGS VICIOUSLY, AND MODESTY PARRIES WITH THE KONGO...

...THEN STRIKES

AS THE THIRD MAN LUNGES TOWARDS WILLIE...

UHH!

1487

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU PLAYING AT, WILLIE?

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT ONE LEFT TO TALK, PRINCESS

I GAVE 'IM A HANDFUL OF MUCK ACROSS THE FACE, AND 'E CAN'T SEE THROUGH THAT STOCKING-MASK NOW, SO—

HE WON'T KNOW ANYTHING WORTHWHILE ... CHILL HIM

SURE—IT WAS JUST A THOUGHT

1488

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

BUMP ON THE 'EAD

RIBS ARE ALL RIGHT, I THINK—WE GOT HERE BEFORE THEY REALLY WENT TO TOWN ON HIM

MAKE LIKE HE'S DRUNK AND LET'S GET HIM TO THE CAR

TWO MINUTES LATER...

AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHY 'E WAS TAILING US

I FANCY HE THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE PUSHING DOPE... HE'S A COP, WILLIE, DETECTIVE SERGEANT DAWSON—I'VE JUST FOUND HIS WARRANT CARD

1489

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AT NEW SCOTLAND YARD, INSPECTOR BROOK OF THE DRUG SQUAD PREPARES TO GO HOME...
IF DAWSON COMES THROUGH WITH ANYTHING THAT JUSTIFIES TURNING OVER THE CLOUD NINE CLUB, RING ME AT HOME
COULD BE HIM NOW, SIR

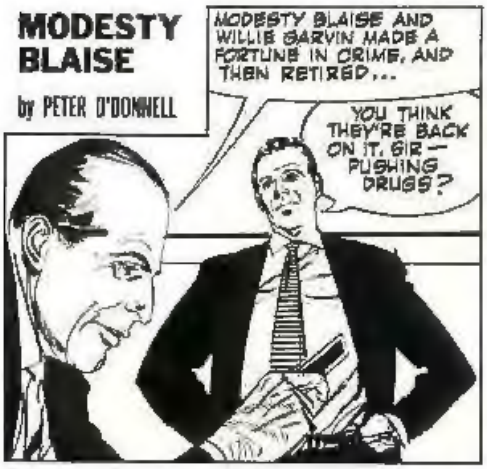
A MAN AND A WOMAN HAVE ARRIVED IN A CAR WITH SERGEANT DAWSON, AND HE'S BEEN BEATEN UP — THE WOMAN WANTS TO SEE YOU, SAYS HER NAME'S BLAISE
MODESTY... I'LL BE DAMNED
1490

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL



SERGEANT... WHEN I WAS WITH INTERPOL AND MODESTY BLAISE WAS RUNNING THE NETWORK, SHE GAVE US THE GROPPI MOB ON A PLATE — THE BIGGEST PUSHERS IN EUROPE

TO MY CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE SHE'S RUBBED OUT THREE BIG-TIME PEDDLERS HERSELF... JUNKIE-MAKERS ARE HER VERY SPECIAL HATE, BELIEVE ME
1492

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IT'S THE RIGHT GEAR FOR SNOOPING AROUND THE CLOUD NINE CLUB — AND SAVING COPPERS FROM GETTING THEIR RIBS KICKED IN
SO I HEAR — AND I'M MUCH OBLIGED
1493

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

INSPECTOR BROOK LISTENS TO MODESTY'S STORY

... SO WE JUST TOOK A LOOK AT THIS CLUB

TO SEE IF IT MIGHT BE WHERE THE KID GOT 'ER REEFERS AND ACID

SHE COULD HAVE GOT THE SMOKES AND THE LSD AT ANY OF A DOZEN HIPPY DIVES...

A LOT OF STUFF'S BEEN COMING IN LATELY, NOT JUST SOFT DRUGS BUT HEROIN, TOO ... WE CAN'T TRACE THE SOURCE OR MEANS OF DISTRIBUTION... I WAS HOPING YOU TWO KNEW SOMETHING

BROOKIE, WE JUST DRIFTED ON TO THIS SCENE — TRULY

I SEE... WELL, I'M TELLING YOU OFFICIALLY TO DRIFT OFF IT

BUT- ER- DON'T HURRY YOURSELVES, AND IF YOU LEARN ANYTHING LET ME KNOW

1495

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THIS GIRL AMANDA... I FEEL GUILTY ABOUT HER, BROOKIE

I KNOW, I SEE THEM BY THE DOZEN AND ALL THE TIME... YOU WANT TO HELP, BUT YOU CAN'T...

... SO A LOT OF THEM END UP HOOKED, REGISTERED ADDICTS, QUEUING FOR THEIR OFFICIAL FIX AT THE ALL-NIGHT CHEMISTS, AT ONE MINUTE PAST MIDNIGHT. POOR DEVILS

YOU'RE DEALING WITH A WHOLE CROWD... THIS WAS JUST ONE GIRL — I COULD HAVE TRIED A LITTLE HARDER

ALL RIGHT, TRY — WE'VE GOT HER ADDRESS

1496

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

YOU KNOW THE KID?

WE HAD AN AMANDA JONES BROUGHT IN FOR QUESTIONING A FEW WEEKS BACK

PROBABLY YOUR AMANDA — USUAL STORY, MIDDLE-CLASS HOME, RESPECTABLE PARENTS, GIRL DOESN'T WANT TO KNOW, HUMDRUM LIFE SENDS HER ROUND THE TWIST, SHE CLEARS OUT...

... SMOKES A REEFER, TAKES A TRIP ON LSD, FEELS GREAT, KNOWS ALL THE ANSWERS — SO THE JUNK PEDDLERS GET ANOTHER CLIENT

PIMLICO, ONE ROOM IN A CRUMMY OLD LODGING HOUSE

1497

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

OUTSIDE NEW SCOTLAND YARD

JUST ONE THING, BROOKIE — WHAT'S *BAD SUKI*?

I DON'T KNOW THE ORIGIN, BUT IT MEANS TROUBLE... THE KIND OF TROUBLE THAT CAUGHT UP WITH PAWSON

HIPPY TALK?

NO... THE HIPPIES AREN'T VIOLENT, THEY JUST WANT EVERYONE TO LOVE EVERYONE, AND GET TURNED ON, AND DROP OUT, AND IT'S GROOVY, MAN, GROOVY...

BUT *BAD SUKI* IS SOMETHING ELSE

WE MIGHT SORT OF ATTRACT IT, PRINCESS

THAT'S ONE WAY OF FINDING OUT — GOODNIGHT, BROOKIE

1498

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE DRIVE TO THE LODGING HOUSE WHERE THE HIPPY GIRL LIVES

I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU CAN SAY TO 'ER, PRINCESS — I MEAN, THE MAIN IDEA WITH HIPPIES IS THEY RECKON YOU SHOULD JUST DO YOUR OWN THING

I'M NOT TRYING FOR INSTANT CONVERSION... WE'LL JUST SAY HALLO AND SEE HOW SHE REACTS

SORT OF ENIGMATIC... THAT MIGHT HOOK 'ER INTEREST, I SUPPOSE

AMANDA JONES... THIRD FLOOR, ROOM ELEVEN

FRONT DOOR'S OPEN

1499

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY KNOCKS AT THE DOOR OF ROOM ELEVEN

NO ANSWER, NO LIGHT UNDER THE DOOR — MAYBE SHE'S NOT BACK YET

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG, PRINCESS... MY EARS ARE PRICKLING

I TRUST YOUR EARS, WILLIE, LET'S TAKE A LOOK

AMANDA...?

A FAINT WHIMPERING NOISE COMES FROM A FIGURE SPRAWLED ON THE FLOOR

1500

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE GIRL MOANS...

SHE ON ANOTHER TRIP?

PUT THE LIGHT ON, WILLIE

BAD SUKI... BAD SUKI...

A DIFFERENT KIND... NOT DRUGS, BUT HOBNAIL BOOTS — LOOK

GOD, THEY'VE SET THE FRIGHTENERS ON 'ER!

A QUAVERING CRY OF TERROR FROM THE HALF-CONSCIOUS GIRL...

NO... PLEASE—!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, AMANDA. WE WON'T LET THEM HURT YOU ANY MORE

WILLIE, GET SOME WATER AND A CLEAN TOWEL IF YOU CAN FIND ONE

1501

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WHO DID IT, AMANDA?

THEY SAID... I TALKED TO... MODESTY BLAISE...

WHOEVER SHE RANG FROM THE PENTHOUSE MUST HAVE PASSED THE WORD ... AND THE BOOT EXPERTS MOVED IN

THEY SAID IT WAS... BAD SUKI...

HEY, MAN—

YOU IN THIS? YOU TOUCHED THE KID?

1502

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

I-I JUST LIVE ACROSS THE HALL, MAN! HEARD A RUMPUS HERE IN MANDY'S ROOM AN HOUR BACK MAYBE... FIGURED SHE WAS JUST HIGH ON A TRIP—
HE'S NO PART OF IT, WILLIE— FIND A PHONE AND GET A MESSAGE TO INSPECTOR BROOK
RIGHT
NEAREST PHONE— QUICK! AND DON'T TALK BACK. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD!
1503

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THEY KEPT KICKING ME... KICKING ME...
YOU'RE SAFE NOW, WILLIE'S GETTING AN AMBULANCE... WE'LL JUST HAVE A LOOK AT YOUR RIBS
THE HALF CONSCIOUS GIRL SPEAKS IN A PAINFUL WHISPER...
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL COME BACK... AND IF THEY DO, THEY'RE DEAD — THAT'S A PROMISE
THEY'RE COMING BACK! I CAN HEAR THEM!
BROOKIE WAS AT THE 'OSPITAL WITH SERGEANT DAWSON — THE YARD SWITCHED ME THROUGH TO 'IM THERE — HE'S ON THE WAY NOW, PRINCESS
LADY... PLEASE HAVE HIM PUT ME DOWN... HE'S LIKE FORGOTTEN HE'S DRAGGING ME AROUND...
1504

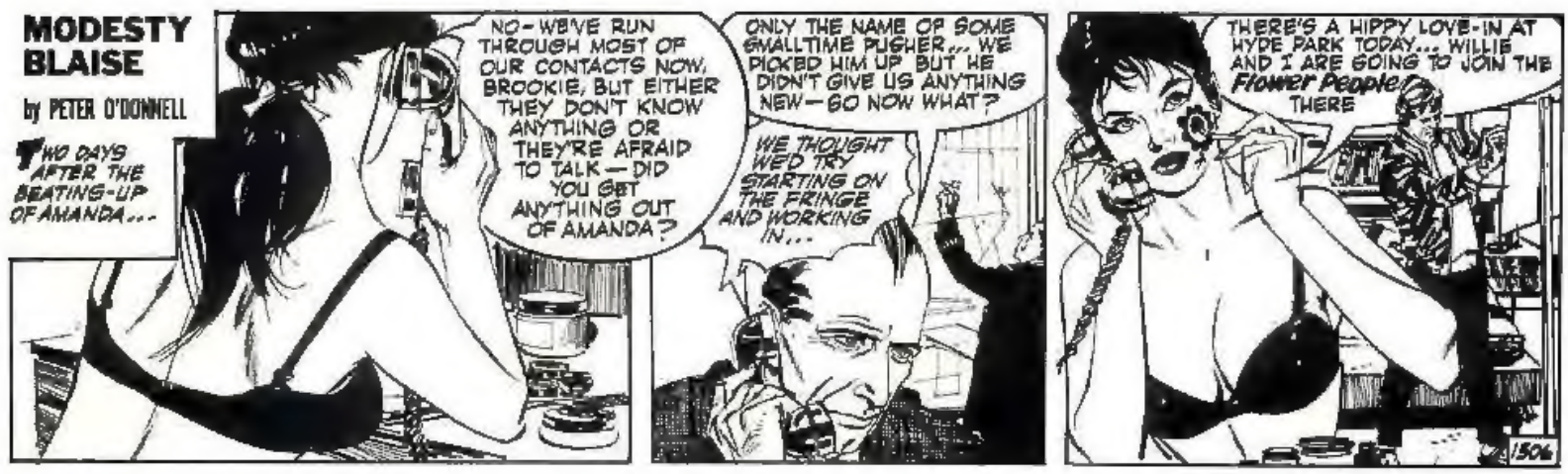
MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THEY THOUGHT SHE'D TALKED TO ME... SO THEY DID THAT TO HER, BROOKIE
COULD BE A FAVOUR
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU MEAN?
THE DOCTOR SAYS SHE'LL LIVE... MAYBE SHE'LL STAY AWAY FROM DOPE AFTER THIS
IF THEY WANT TO DEAL IN THAT KIND OF FAVOUR, WE'LL PLAY IT THEIR WAY
ALL RIGHT... JUST DON'T LET ME CATCH YOU. THERE'S A GOOD GIRL. I'D HATE TO THROW YOU IN THE NICK
1505

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


TWO DAYS AFTER THE BEATING-UP OF AMANDA...
NO - WE'VE RUN THROUGH MOST OF OUR CONTACTS NOW, BROOKIE, BUT EITHER THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING OR THEY'RE AFRAID TO TALK — DID YOU GET ANYTHING OUT OF AMANDA?
ONLY THE NAME OF SOME SMALLTIME PUSHER... WE PICKED HIM UP BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE US ANYTHING NEW — SO NOW WHAT?
WE THOUGHT WE'D TRY STARTING ON THE FRINGE AND WORKING IN...
THERE'S A HIPPY LOVE-IN AT HYDE PARK TODAY... WILLIE AND I ARE GOING TO JOIN THE Flower People THERE
1506

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
IN HYDE PARK... A HIPPY LOVE-IN
WELL SPLIT UP AND JUST WANDER AROUND, WILLIE
I RECKON 'ALF THESE WEIRDIES ARE JUST WEEKEND HIPPIES PRINCESS
BEATLES FOR PRIME MINISTER
YES... TRY TO LATCH ON TO ANY GROUP THAT LOOKS LIKE A BUNCH OF HARD-CORE POT-SMOKERS
1507
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
'AVE SOME OF MINE, CHICK
ANYONE GOT FREE?
HI.. WE JUST THOUGHT WE'D START HITCHING TO ISTANBUL ... WANT TO COME?
YOU AN' ME TEAM UP?
SURE... MEDITATION'S OUR KICK, WHAT'S YOURS?
JUST TOBACCO SHE'S SMOKING — NOT HASH
MY KICK? IT'S NOT DOLLS WHO MEDITATE... BUT 'AVE A GOOD TRIP
1508
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
AT THE HIPPY LOVE-IN, AS MODESTY LOOKS FOR A LEAD TO THE DRUG PUSHERS
I MIGHT BE
YOU FREE?
FOR WHAT?
FOR LISTENING, DOLL — GOT A POEM HERE I WROTE. NO WORDS, JUST SOUNDS
REAL GROOVY, IT'S CALLED 'HOO WAH WAH LI YAY PUH'
CORNY... I ONLY DIG WAY-OUT STUFF, MAN
1509
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
AFTER AN HOUR OF WANDERING AMONG THE HIPPIES AT THEIR LOVE-IN...
NO... WHEN THESE CHICKS SAY 'LIVING IS LOVING' THEY DON'T MEAN WHAT I MEAN
ANY LUCK, WILLIE?
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THAT KIND OF LUCK
YOUNG WOMAN...
...THIS WAY OF LIFE CAN ONLY LEAD YOU INTO TEMPTATION AND WICKEDNESS — TAKE THIS LITTLE BOOK AND READ ABOUT THE RIGHT WAY, MY DEAR
BLIMEY, IT'S GOOD GERTIE FLOSSING 'ER 'SHINING THOUGHTS' AGAIN...
1510

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

GOOD GERTIE GOES ABOUT HER WORK...

BE SURE TO READ IT, MY DEAR— AND IF YOU NEED SPIRITUAL HELP AND COMFORT, YOU'LL FIND MY ADDRESS INSIDE

GREAT... DON'T CALL ME, I'LL CALL YOU

LOVE IS THE MOST

THAT EVENING, AT WILLIE'S PUB, 'The Treadmill'

WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE, PRINCESS— THIS AFTERNOON WAS A DEAD LOSS

I RECKON WE'LL NEED TO FREAK OUT AS HIPPIES FOR **WEEKS** IF WE WANT TO GET A NIBBLE FROM THE DOPE-PUSHERS

UNLESS GOOD GERTIE COULD HELP...

1511

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

GOOD GERTIE SPENDS HALF HER LIFE AMONG THE HIPPIES, TRYING TO CONVERT THEM... SHE'S WELL PLACED TO SPOT THE PUSHERS IF SHE KNEW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

DANGEROUS FOR THE OLD DUCK...

NOBODY'S GOING TO SUSPECT HER, SHE'S A STANDING JOKE WELL ESTABLISHED

AND THAT'S A POUND YOU OWE ME, WILLIE LOVE

I WONDER IF SHE'D 'AVE A GO...?

IT'S MORE LIKELY THAN ME BEATING YOU AT DARTS— THAT'S THE FIRST TIME IN SIX MONTHS

COME ON, I'LL BUY YOU A DRINK

1512

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MISS GERTRUDE PORTER RECEIVES TWO UNEXPECTED VISITORS WITH A SURPRISING REQUEST

YOU WANT **ME** TO..? OH, I'M IN QUITE A FLUTTER! YOU THINK I COULD BE A KIND OF **DETECTIVE**, AND SPOT THESE DREADFUL MEN WHO SELL DRUGS?

YOU MOVE AMONG THE HIPPY PEOPLE A LOT MISS PORTER — IF YOU WATCH CAREFULLY YOU'RE BOUND TO PICK UP SOMETHING

BUT YOU MUSTN'T **ACT** ANY DIFFERENT — THAT'D BE DANGEROUS, SEE?

I'M NOT **AFRAID**, MR GARVIN... DANGER WON'T STOP ME IF I CAN HELP TO SAVE JUST **ONE** POOR SOUL... BUT YOU NEED NOT WORRY, EVERYBODY LAUGHS AT GOOD GERTIE— THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME, YOU KNOW

1513

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

GOODNESS, THIS IS **SO** EXCITING! I SHALL BE LIKE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE IN DETECTIVE BOOKS, WON'T I?

THAT'S RIGHT— WHAT THEY CALL AN **INSIDE STAND**

A SORT OF FEMALE JAMES BOND, ONLY A BIT MORE MATURE

BOND?... I DON'T THINK I KNOW THAT ONE... BUT I USED TO READ ABOUT A MR BULLDOG DRUMMOND WHEN I WAS YOUNG — HE WAS A **VERY** NICE MAN

AND DRUG PUSHERS ARE VERY **NASTY** MEN, SO YOU MUSTN'T LET THEM SUSPECT ANYTHING, MISS PORTER

PLEASE DON'T WORRY, MY DEAR— I CAN BE QUITE **ARTFUL** WHEN I REALLY TRY!

1514

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

ISN'T IT? AND MISS BLAISE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS YOUR LITTLE BOOK 'Shining Thoughts'. WITH YOU SOMETIME SOON — SHE'S VERY KEEN ON IT
OH, THAT WOULD BE SIMPLY LOVELY!
1515

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

FIVE DAYS AFTER MODESTY HAS SET GOOD GERTIE ON PICKING UP THE TRAIL OF THE DRUG PEDDLERS

I KNOW IT'S VERY LATE, BUT THIS IS MISS PERTINAX PORTER SPEAKING, AND SHE DID SAY THAT I WAS TO TELEPHONE HER AT ANY HOUR
YES, SHE LEFT INSTRUCTIONS, MISS PORTER — ONE MOMENT, PLEASE

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

I HAD A WONDERFUL PIECE OF GOOD FORTUNE TONIGHT, MY DEAR! THERE WERE THESE TWO MEN, QUITE HORRID MEN, IN THE BLUE GARTER, AND I OVERHEARD THEIR CONVERSATION QUITE DISTINCTLY

AH, YOU'RE GOING TO ASK WHERE, AREN'T YOU? WELL I REALISED I SIMPLY HAD TO FIND THAT OUT... SO I DID A RATHER SHOCKING THING, I'M AFRAID
1517

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

GOOD GERTIE TELLS HER STORY...
A PIECE OF PAPER CHANGED HANDS, AND ONE OF THE MEN PUT IT IN HIS POCKET WELL, I KNEW THIS WAS TERRIBLY IMPORTANT, SO I FOLLOWED HIM...

HE DIDN'T SEE ME, BECAUSE HE WAS ROUND THE CORNER — BUT HE'D HUNG UP HIS JACKET SO I READ WHAT WAS ON THE PAPER AND JOTTED IT DOWN IN ONE OF MY LITTLE BOOKS.
1518

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

I'M SO GLAD, MY DEAR — WILL YOU CALL IN THE POLICE NOW?
MISS PORTER YOU'RE MARVELLOUS — YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN SUCH A RISK, BUT LUCKILY IT WORKED, AND YOU'VE GIVEN US A TREMENDOUS OPENING
NO — I THINK I TOLD YOU THAT WE WANT TO BREAK THIS GANG COMPLETELY, AND THE POLICE HAVE TO WORK UNDER TOO MANY LEGAL HANDICAPS
OH YES, I REMEMBER, YOU EXPLAINED THAT TO ME
DON'T BREATHE A WORD TO ANYONE MISS PORTER — WE'LL CALL YOU WHEN THE WHOLE THING'S SETTLED
1519

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SHORNE BAY — 0300 HOURS ON THE 24TH
IT'S ON THE SOUTH COAST OF CORNWALL
RIGHT... WE'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS WE'RE READY, I WANT US TO HAVE A FULL DAY FOR LOOKING THE PLACE OVER
WHAT D'YOU WANT LOADED UP, PRINCESS?
MAKE IT FULL GEAR, WILLIE — AND INCLUDE THE SCUBA SUITS, WE MIGHT HAVE TO GO SWIMMING
GIVE ME FORTY MINUTES
1520

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN THE EARLY HOURS, MODESTY AND WILLIE HEAD FOR THE WEST COUNTRY
I WONDER HOW THEY BRING THE DOPE IN
SO DO I...
...NOT SO BAD WITH SMALL PACKETS, BUT GETTING THE STUFF ASHORE IN BULK IS SOMETHING ELSE — THE CUSTOMS WATCH THESE LITTLE WEST COUNTRY BAYS LIKE 'AWKS
WE MUST HAVE TO SEE... YOU GET A COUPLE OF HOURS SLEEP NOW WILLIE LOVE, THEN WE'LL CHANGE OVER
1521

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SHORNE BAY...
NOT WHAT YOU'D CALL BUSTLING PRINCESS — ALL THE EASIER TO WATCH
YES... THINK YOU CAN GET A COUPLE OF ROOMS IN THE HOTEL WITH A VIEW OF THE BAY?
OUGHT TO BE EASY IT'S NOT THE 'OL DAY SEASON
TWENTY MINUTES LATER...
0300 HOURS TOMORROW IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE TIME, IF GOOD GERT'IE GOT IT RIGHT
THAT BIT PUZZLES ME, WILLIE — IN A PLACE LIKE THIS IF YOU MOVE AROUND AT NIGHT YOU STIR UP A WHOLE LOT OF CURIOSITY
1522

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I WISH I KNEW..
WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR PRINCESS?
..ANYTHING THAT LOOKS LIKE A WAY OF DODGING THE COAST PREVENTIVE MEN THE PATROL SERVICE, AND THE COASTGUARDS
THERE'S A LITTLE YACHT COMING IN— MUST BE FROM ACROSS THE CHANNEL, SHE'S FLYING THE YELLOW FLAG FOR MEDICAL CLEARANCE
THAT'S VERY CORRECT .. ALMOST TOO CORRECT
1523
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
YES... HE MUST BE MAKING A PRETTY THOROUGH SEARCH
ABOUT AN HOUR SINCE THE CUSTOMS MAN WENT ABOARD
SOING ASHORE NOW... 'AVING A MATEY WORD WITH THE SKIPPER FIRST— LOOKS LIKE THE YACHT'S CLEAN
ALL THE SAME...
ALL THE SAME WHAT, PRINCESS?
THAT SHIP'S ABOUT THE ONLY THING THAT'S HAPPENED IN SHORNE BAY SO FAR TODAY.. IF NOTHING ELSE CROPS UP WE MIGHT TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT HER
1524
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
Nightfall
GET THE CAR AND WE'LL DRIVE UP ON TO THE CLIFFS WILLIE— WE'LL BE BETTER PLACED THERE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS
IF I FIND SOMEONE'S BEEN TRYING TO SEEM LIKE A BIG DEAL NOW..
PARK HER HERE— WE CAN SPOT ANY MOVEMENT IN THE BAY, AND THERE'S A CLIFF PATH IF WE WANT TO GET DOWN
I'VE A HUNCH THE STUFF'S ABOARD THAT YACHT AND SOMEBODY'S COMING TO PICK IT UP BUT I DON'T SEE HOW... THERE'LL BE A COAST PREVENTIVE MAN WATCHING HER
SHE'S RUDDY WELL GONE, PRINCESS!
525
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
A BOAT COMES IN AND DROPS THE 'OOK... SHE'S SEARCHED BY CUSTOMS, THERE'S NO CONTACT WITH THE SHORE.. THEN, SOON AS IT'S DARK SHE SLIPS AWAY
SO WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
IF SHE CARRIED A LOAD OF DOPE, WHERE WAS IT? AND 'OW DID THEY GET IT ASHORE?
I THINK IT'S TIME WE STOPPED WONDERING AND MADE A MOVE
WHAT'S THE PLOT PRINCESS?
WE CAN'T TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THE YACHT NOW, BUT AT LEAST WE CAN TAKE A LOOK AT WHERE SHE'S BEEN ALL DAY— GET THE SCUBA SUITS OUT, WILLIE
1526

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AT THE FOOT OF THE CLIFF PATH

TAKE A BEARING, WILLIE— I WANT US TO QUARTER THE SEA-BED FOR ABOUT THIRTY YARDS AROUND WHERE THE YACHT WAS ANCHORED

RIGHT.. WE CAN PICK UP THE MOORING LINE ON THAT LITTLE WHITE DINGHY AND WORK INWARDS FROM THERE

WE COULD BE WASTING OUR TIME...

LET'S HOPE NOT— GOOD GERTIE DID 'ER BIT SO WE'LL LOOK PROPER CHARLIES IF WE FALL DOWN ON OURS

1527

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE GLIDE TOWARDS THE POINT WHERE THE YACHT WAS ANCHORED

A LOT BETTER IF WE COULD USE A LIGHT..

BETTER STILL IF WE 'AD SOME IDEA WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

MODESTY'S HAND SUDDENLY GRIPS HARD ON WILLIE'S WRIST AND SHE POINTS

BLIMEY... WE GOT COMPANY DOWN 'ERE!

1528

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THREE FROGMEN... WORKING ON SOMETHING

A CONTAINER...

... WATERTIGHT, AN' LOADED WITH DRUGS

THE YACHT TOWS IT IN SUBMERGED, AND LEAVES IT ON THE BOTTOM OF THE BAY TO BE PICKED UP..

BUT THEY'VE STILL GOT TO GET IT ASHORE SOME 'OW

1529

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE FROGMEN MOVE OFF, TOWING THE CONTAINER

ENOUGH DOPE TO KEEP EVERY JUNKIE IN LONDON GOING FOR SIX MONTHS...

WONDER IF THE PRINCESS RECKONS TO TAKE 'EM NOW

MODESTY ANSWERS THE UNSPOKEN QUESTION IN SIGN LANGUAGE...

NO ACTION YET — JUST TAIL 'EM

1530

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE FOLLOW THE THREE FROGMEN TOWING THE CONTAINER . .

THEY'RE BEYOND THE END OF THE BEACH... NO WAY ASHORE NOW, JUST CLIFFS DROPPING STRAIGHT DOWN INTO THE SEA

THEY'VE GONE! NO – THERE'S A CAVE 'ERE BELOW SEA LEVEL!

TWO MINUTES LATER THE FROGMEN EMERGE WITH THEIR BURDEN INTO A NATURAL TUNNEL, DIMLY LIT BY ELECTRICITY . . .

1531

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE SURFACE...

NICE AN' SMOOTH... THE STUFF'S DUMPED IN THE BAY, THEN BROUGHT ASHORE *UNDERGROUND!*

AND NOBODY SEES ANYTH NG

LEAVE THE LUNGS AND WEIGHT-BELTS HERE – WE'LL SEE WHERE TH S LEADS TO, WILL E

GOT TO BE A HOUSE, I RECKON – F IT LED OUT TO OPEN GROUND EVERYONE 'D KNOW ABOUT IT

1532

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WE STARTING A RUMBLE STRAIGHT AWAY? OR GOING BACK TO THE CAR FOR SOME MORE GEAR FIRST?

THEY DON'T KNOW WE'RE COM NG, AND THERE CAN'T BE A CROWD OF THEM – SO WE OUGHT TO MANAGE WITH WHAT WE'VE GOT

YOU TAKE MY KNIFE, WILLIE, I'LL BE USING THE COLT

1533

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

PLAY NG THIS ONE FOR KEEPS ARE WE, PR NCESS?

THEY PEDDLE DRUGS...

. .THAT'S SLOW MURDER

RIGHT THEN – WE SIGN 'EM OFF, WEIGHT 'EM, AND LAUNCH 'EM

LET'S 'OPE IT'S NOT TOO FAR – WE'RE N FOR A LONG NIGHT, CARRY'NG 'EM OUT FEET FIRST

WE CAN'T COMPLAIN – YOU'D HAVE A JOB F NDING A BETTER SET-UP

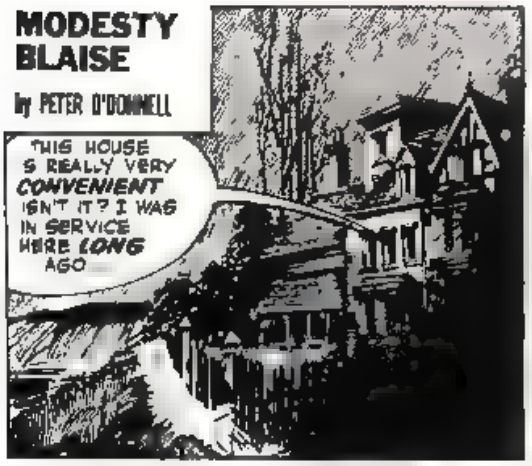
LET'S GET IT OVER WITH

1534

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
Not locked. Might be wired to an alarm on the other side, though
Wired doors are for keeping locked — chance it, Willie
THE TUNNEL RISES, GROWS NARROWER, AND ENDS IN A FLIGHT OF STEPS LEADING UP TO A HEAVY DOOR
THE DOOR OPENS QUIETLY... ON COMPLETE DARKNESS
Cellar of some kind.
A BRIGHT CONE OF LIGHT SPRINGS TO LIFE, AND —
MAKE A MOVE AND SHE GETS BOTH BARRELS
1535
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
A SHOT-GUN MENACES THE FIGURE STRAPPED TO THE CHAIR
IT'S... GOOD GERTIE!
DROP THE HARDWARE TURN AROUND AND PUT YOUR HANDS FLAT ON THE WALL — OR THE OLD DOLL GETS A HOLE N HER HEAD
I—I DON'T WANT TO INFLUENCE YOU, MY DEARS, BUT I'M AFRAID HE REALLY MEANS IT...
1536
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
WITH GOOD GERTIE MENACED BY THE SHOT-GUN, MODESTY AND WILLIE ARE HELPLESS
A DOOR OPENS, TWO MEN ENTER ... AND GOOD GERTIE STANDS UP, THE STRAPS FALLING AWAY FROM HER WRISTS
THERE NOW I SAID YOU WOULDN'T LET A POOR OLD LADY BE KILLED — YOU HAVE FAR TOO MANY SCRUPLES
PUT THE CUFFS ON THEM, MR LEFTY— AND GIVE THEM A GUN-BUTT N THE FACE IF THEY RE EVEN A TINY BIT NAUGHTY
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW MY PROFESSIONAL NAME... I M SLK
1537
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
I MUST ADMIT I WAS ANXIOUS WHEN I FOUND THAT YOU WERE INVESTIGATING MY LITTLE DRUG-PURVEYING ENTERPRISE..
BUT THEN YOU ENLISTED MY HELP, WHICH GAVE ME A SPLENDID CHANCE TO BE A LITTLE BIT DECEITFUL WITH YOU, I'M AFRAID
IT'S NOT VERY NICE IN THIS CELLAR.. LET'S A... GO UP TO THE DRAWING ROOM, SHALL WE? I'M SIMPLY DYING FOR A CUP OF TEA
1538

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL



...AND I FOUND THE TUNNEL TO THE SEA QUITE BY ACCIDENT
NOW DON'T SMOKE IN MY DRAWING ROOM, MR. CHALKY ... THAT COULD BE VERY BAD LUK! FOR YOU
OH GAWD— SORRY!

THERE'S THE LATEST CONSIGNMENT, MY DEARS... IT WAS VERY EXPENSIVE, ESPECIALLY THE HEROIN— BUT I SUPPOSE WE ALL COMPLAIN ABOUT THE WAY PRICES KEEP RISING THESE DAYS
1539

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE THINGS YOU SAY, MR. GARVIN! BUT DON'T SAY THEM AGAIN, OR I SHALL ASK MR SLASHER TO DO SOMETHING QUITE HORRID TO YOUR FACE
1540

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

DON'T BRACKET YOURSELF WITH US, YOU SELL LIVING HELL AND SLOW DEATH— WE KILL YOUR KIND!
NOW DON'T SHOW TEMPER, DEAR, THAT'S NOT NICE
1541

MODESTY BLAISE

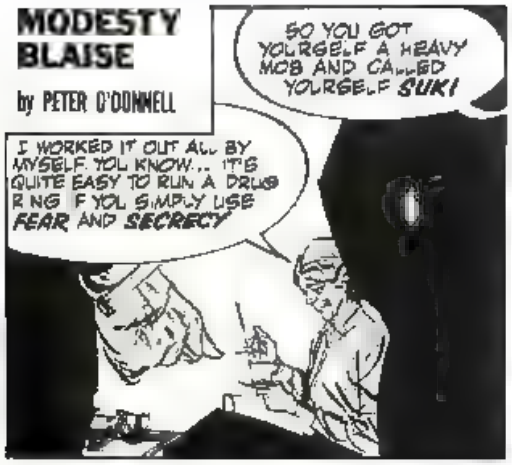
by PETER O'DONNELL

I HAVEN'T ALWAYS PURVEYED DRUGS UNFORTUNATELY... T WAS ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO THAT I MADE A GREAT DISCOVERY WHICH PUT ME ON THE RIGHT ROAD...
...I FOUND THAT ONE COULD BUY VIOLENCE CHEAPLY—OH GRACIOUS, SO CHEAPLY— YOU CAN HAVE A PERSON CARVED UP FOR FIFTY POUNDS OR KILLED FOR ONLY TWO HUNDRED!

SO YOU CAN START WITH VERY LITTLE CAPITAL YOU SEE? BUT YOU MUSTN'T ALLOW YOURSELF ANY SCRUPLES
NOW THAT'S YOUR TROUBLE, MY DEARS—AND SCRUPLES ARE FATAL
1542

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

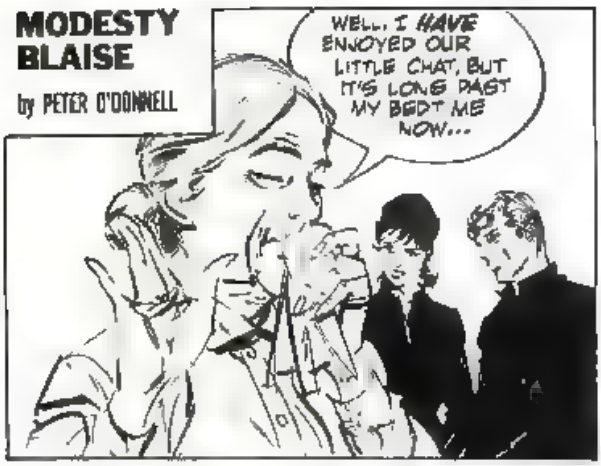

SO YOU GOT YOURSELF A HEAVY MOB AND CALLED YOURSELF SUKI
I WORKED IT OUT ALL BY MYSELF, YOU KNOW... IT'S QUITE EASY TO RUN A DRUG RING IF YOU SIMPLY USE FEAR AND SECRECY

THAT'S IT EXACTLY DEAR! PEOPLE ARE MUCH MORE FRIGHTENED OF A MYSTERIOUS UNKNOWN PERSON, AREN'T THEY? I CHOSE 'SUKI' BECAUSE I ONCE HAD A LITTLE DOGGIE OF THAT NAME...
SHE'S BATTY, PRINCESS!

OH NO, NO, MR. GARVIN, I'M VERY PRACTICAL... I FOUND CONTACTS, ARRANGED SUPPLIES, AND DID EVERYTHING ...I DO THINK YOU MIGHT SAY A LITTLE WORD OF PRAISE BEFORE YOU PASS AWAY
1543

MODESTY BLAISE

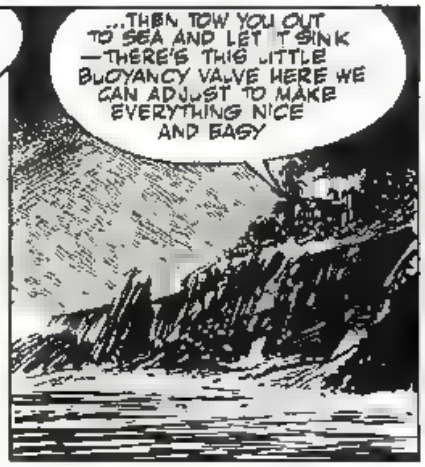
by PETER O'DONNELL



GO AND BRING THE BOAT ROUND TO THE POINT, MR. LEFTY—AND WHILE YOU'RE DOING THAT, MR SLASHER AND MR CHALKY WILL GET THESE TWO SILLY GEESE READY FOR BURIAL
1544

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL


...THEN TOW YOU OUT TO SEA AND LET IT SINK —THERE'S THIS LITTLE BUOYANCY VALVE HERE WE CAN ADJUST TO MAKE EVERYTHING NICE AND EASY

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

IN THE TUNNEL LEADING TO THE SEA..
I'M SO GLAD YOU WERE CLEVER ENOUGH TO FIND YOUR WAY INTO MY LITTLE TRAP...
IF I'D DROPPED MORE THAN A TINY HINT, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN SUSPICIOUS!
OH GRACIOUS, IT'S CHILLY HERE, ISN'T IT? WE MUSTN'T DILLY DALLY

NOW DO PLEASE GET INTO THAT CONTAINER NICE AND QUIETLY OR I SHALL HAVE TO TELL MR. SLASHER TO DO SOME RATHER BEASTLY THINGS TO YOU WITH HIS KNIFE
1546

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE LIE CRAMPED IN THE BASE OF THE CONTAINER

NOW WE POP THE LID ON

AND IT'S T ME TO SAY — BYE-BYE! BON VOYAGE!

WING NUTS SCREW DOWN ON TWO STEEL RODS, ONE AT EACH END OF THE CONTAINER, BOLTING THE TOP SECURELY TO THE BASE

TRY TO BE NICE AND QUICK, YOU BOYS— I WANT A LITTLE CONFERENCE BEFORE WE ALL GO TO BED

SURE, SUK

1547

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

GOOD GERTIE, ALIAS SUKI, WATCHES THE SUBMERGED CONTAINER TOWED AWAY

IN THE UTTER BLACKNESS, NO SCRAP OF PRECIOUS AIR IS WASTED BY TALK

WILLIE GAVE ME THE HIGH SIGN NOT TO START A RUMBLE SO WHATEVER HE'S GOT HAD BETTER BE GOOD! ALL I'VE GOT IS A PROBE I CAN'T REACH...

...AND A BUTTON-LIGHT FROM A MALLORY BATTERY

GOT TO WORK FAST... AIR WON'T LAST LONG

WILLIE SLIDES THE SIGNET RING FROM HIS FINGER

1548

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE RING FROM WILLIE'S FINGER UNSCREWS IN TWO SECTIONS, WITH A COIL OF FINE WIRE BETWEEN

FLEXIBLE SAW! STEEL WIRE COATED WITH DIAMOND DUST PASTE...

... IF HE CAN CUT THROUGH THAT BOLT N TIME... T'S ONLY MILD STEEL

MODESTY CLOSES HER EYES

GOT TO MAKE THE AIR LAST... RELAX... MIND BLANK... BREATHE SLOW AND SHALLOW... SLOWER...

1549

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

LEFTY, WAITING WITH A LAUNCH, TAKES THE SUBMERGED CONTAINER IN TOW

ONE OF THE FROGMEN OPENS THE VALVE OF THE BUOYANCY CHAMBER, SO THAT THE CONTAINER WILL SINK WHEN IT IS CAST OFF

AND INSIDE...

THE PRINCESS 'AS DROPPED OUT... TRANCE... SAVIN' OXYGEN

1550

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY LIES IN A SELF-INDUCED COMA, SCARCELY BREATHING, WHILE WILLIE WORKS WITH THE TINY FLEXIBLE SAW

AIR'S FOUL...

HALF A MILE FROM THE SHORE, IN THIRTY FATHOMS OF WATER, LEFTY CUTS OFF THE TOW-LINE

...'ARDLY ANY OXYGEN LEFT

NOW YOU KNOW WHAT Bad Suki MEANS...!

1551

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

WILLIE GARVIN, CLOSE TO SUFFOCATION, WAKES MODESTY BRUSQUELY FROM HER TRANCE

BOLT'S CUT THROUGH, PRINCESS

ON AIR-TO-WEIGHT RATIO WE'D BE ANGING AT AROUND TEN FATHOMS MAYBE...

HOW DEEP ARE WE, WILLIE?

THAT'S ENOUGH PRESSURE TO BEAT... LET'S TRY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

1552

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE THRUST DESPERATELY TO FORCE THE CONTAINER OPEN AGAINST PRESSURE

SHE'S GOING! RIDE UP WITH THE MAIN BUBBLE, WILLIE—

BUT THE LONG EFFORT OF CUTTING THE BOLT WHILE BREATHING EVER-STALER AIR, TAKES ITS TOLL AT LAST, AND WILLIE GARVIN SLUMPS...

LOST IT... DAMN!

TEN FATHOMS.. GOT TO KEEP THE WATER OUT OF HIS LUNGS

1553

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

CONSCIOUSNESS STEALS BACK TO WILLIE GARVIN

S... THAT YOU PRINCESS?

IT HAD BETTER BE WILLIE LOVE

DO YOU KNOW SOME OTHER GIRL WHO MIGHT BE KEEPING YOU AFLOAT IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL AT MIDNIGHT

NOT OFF AND ... COR THIS AIR'S MARVELLOUS EH?

LOOKS LIKE THE CURRENT'S TAKING US IN

YES, BUT WE MIGHT STRIKE AN UNDERTOW— SO GET THE PROBE FROM THE BACK OF MY BELT AND LET'S HAVE THESE CUFFS OFF WILLIE

1554

MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
GOOD GERTIE'S 'EAVY MOB DIDN'T PICK UP THE CAR THEN...
AT AN HOUR PAST MIDNIGHT MODESTY AND WILLIE REACH THE CLIFF-TOP
I DOUBT IF THEY LOOKED—MUCH EASIER TO FIND IT AT FIRST LIGHT AND RUN IT OVER THE EDGE
WELL, THEY WON'T BE WAITING FOR US THIS TIME PRINCESS — WHAT YOU WANT US TO DO ABOUT GOOD GERTIE?
YOU, NOTHING WILLIE — I WOULDN'T ASK YOU TO SIGN OFF A LITTLE OLD LADY...
...ME, I'M GOING TO SHOOT HER ON SIGHT
1555
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MODESTY AND WILLIE PREPARE FOR ACTION...
PLAIN
WHICH WAY D'YOU WANT US TO BREAK IN, PRINCESS — PLAIN OR FANCY?
I DON'T FEEL LIKE PUSSYFOOTING AROUND... WE'LL KICK THE DOOR DOWN AND TAKE IT FROM THERE
IN THE HOUSE...
A POLICE CAR...!
OH GAWD!
PLEASE DON'T PANIC, MR LEFTY, WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN READY FOR A QUICK DEPARTURE AND THAT CAR WILL DO VERY NICELY FOR THE FIRST STAGE
1556
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
AS MODESTY AND WILLIE MOVE TOWARDS THE HOUSE THERE COMES THE SOUND OF A SHOT... A CRY.. THEN THE ROAR OF AN ENGINE
COMING STRAIGHT AT US — JUMP!
SUKI AND 'ER BOYS — IN A POLICE CAR!
POLICE
STOP!
BROOKIE...
I'M SPECTOR BROOK, HEAD OF THE DRUG SQUAD
1557
MODESTY BLAISE
by PETER O'DONNELL
MY GOD, I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE DEAD
S'THAT WHAT GOOD GERTIE AND HER HATCHETMEN TOLD YOU?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HAS EVERYONE GONE CRAZY? THE PEOPLE IN THAT CAR JUST SHOT A POLICE SERGEANT-!
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL CATCH THEM IN THE JENSEN
TWENTY SECONDS LATER...
LISTEN AND I'LL TELL YOU OUR BIT BROOKIE THEN YOU CAN TELL US YOURS
1558

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

YOU'RE SAYING THAT ... THAT GOOD GERTIE RUNS THE DRUG RACKET? SHE'S SUKI?
IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT, WHY WERE YOU AT HER HOUSE?
HER HOUSE? MY GOD, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT! NOW LOOK, I'VE BEEN KEEPING TABS ON YOU TWO, AND WHEN I GOT WORD YOU'D GONE TO SHORNE BAY IN A HURRY I CAME ON DOWN ...
THEN THE TAIL TELLS ME YOU'VE GONE SCUBA DIVING IN THE BAY AT NIGHT AND NEVER COME UP AGAIN!
THAT'S RIGHT — HE MUST BE A SMART TAIL
1559

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AS THE JENSEN SLOWLY OVERHAULS THE STOLEN POLICE CAR, INSPECTOR BROOK ENDS HIS STORY
...I RAKED OUT THE LOCAL SERGEANT, SAID WE HAD INQUIRIES TO MAKE AND WANTED TO STAY SOMEWHERE JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE FOR A DAY OR SO ...
HE SAID THE OLD LADY AT THE GREY HOUSE WAS AT HOME THIS WEEK AND MIGHT OBLIGE — SO THAT'S WHERE HE TOOK US
AND CAUSED A PANIC
NEXT THING I KNEW, THE SERGEANT HAD A BULLET IN HIM AND WE WERE THREATENED WITH THE SAME...
1560

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE STOLEN CAR SWINGS OFF THE ROAD AND HALTS AT THE TOP OF A CHINE
NOT TOO CLOSE, WILLIE — THEY'VE GOT GUNS
AND WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM... BROOKIE'S A COP, 'E CAN'T LET US GET STUCK IN WITH BULLETS AND BLADES...
SLIDE OUT THIS SIDE... AND WATCH YOUR STEP, THE GROUND'S A BIT SLIPPERY
THE KONGO STRIKES SHARPLY, AND INSPECTOR BROOK GOES DOWN
AH! POOR OLD BROOKIE CAME A CROPPER ON THE SLIPPERY GROUND AND BUMPED 'IS 'EAD, EH?
IT SAVES A LOT OF ARGUMENT
1561

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

INSPECTOR BROOK LIES UNCONSCIOUS
SHIP HIM AN ANAESTHETIC NOSE-PLUG, WILLIE ... WE DON'T WANT HIM TO WAKE UP FOR HALF AN HOUR OR SO
BLIMEY, 'E'LL DO 'IS NUT ABOUT THIS!
HE CAN'T PROVE I CHILLED HIM... AND ANYWAY, WE COULDN'T JUST LET HIM WALK OUT UNARMED AND TRY TO ARREST THAT BUNCH OF KILLERS
I FANCY THEY'VE GONE ON DOWN THE CHINE — YOU GET THE LINE-AND-GRAPNEL GEAR OUT WHILE I CHECK
1562

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

ON THE NARROW PATH THAT WINDS FOR HALF A MILE DOWN THE CHINE TO THE SEA . . .

THAT'S NOT JUST THE **POLICE** CHASIN' US—IT'S **BLAISE AN' GARVIN!** I SWEAR I SAW 'ER!

NONSENSE, MR. LEFTY—THEY'RE **DEAD!**

UNLESS **YOU** LET THEM GO... AND IF I THOUGHT YOU HAD DONE **THAT**, I SHOULD CERTAINLY TELL MR. SLASHER TO CUT YOUR LIVER OUT

AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT! I **IMAGINED** IT...

YOU HIDE HERE, MR. SLASHER, AND BLAST ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS—WE'LL FIRE A SHOT TO CALL YOU WHEN WE HAVE THE BOAT READY

OKAY, SUKI

7563

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

AT THE TOP OF THE CHINE . . .

I DON'T RECKON WE'D GET FAR THAT WAY, PRINCESS

NO—TOO MUCH COVER, AND SUKI'S BOUND TO LEAVE ONE OF THEM LAYING FOR US WITH A GUN

WE'LL TAKE THE SHORT WAY—IT CAN'T BE MORE THAN A FEW HUNDRED FEET

MODESTY AND WILLIE MOVE ALONG THE EDGE OF THE CHINE, OUT TO WHERE THE CLIFFS FALL SHEER

NEVER SHOT A LINE **DOWN** BEFORE

NO... BUT IF THE GRAPNEL CATCHES WE'LL SAVE OURSELVES A BIT OF SKIN—THIS CLIFF-FACE IS PRETTY SPITEFUL

1564

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

THE NYLON LINE HAS A BREAKING STRAIN OF 1200 POUNDS

RIGHT, SEE YOU DOWN THERE, PRINCESS—I RECKON WE'LL BE A GOOD FIVE MINUTES AHEAD OF SUKI

IT'S ABOUT TIME WE GOT AHEAD ON THIS CAPER

THE DESCENT IS CONTROLLED BY FORCING THE TWIN GRIPS OF THE SHUTTLE TOGETHER

1565

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SUKI AND HER FOLLOWERS REACH THE MOORING WHICH LIES IN THE SHELTER OF THE CHINE

WELL, WE MUST COUNT OUR **BLESSINGS**...

... I THINK IT WILL BE A NICE **CHANGE** TO RUN OUR LITTLE ENTERPRISE FROM SOME LOVELY **WARM** PLACE ABROAD—

THE SUDDEN CONFRONTATION IS STUPEFYING IN ITS IMPACT

1566

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MODESTY AND WILLIE POUNCE, LEAVING SUKI UNTOUCHED, TAKING A MAN EACH, AND STRIKING ONCE...
...TWICE!
HOLD VERY STILL SUKI!
OH DEAR, THIS IS ...THIS IS QUITE UNNECESSARY — REALLY! SO IMPULSIVE...
I FEEL WE SHOULD TALK BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING SERIOUS—
BEFORE? THESE TWO ARE SERIOUSLY DEAD
THEY DIED QUICK... LUCKIER THAN ALL THE POOR DEVILS YOU'VE PUT DOWN
1567

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

MR. LEFTY AND MR. CHALKY ARE... DEAD? BUT HOW STRANGE — YOU ONLY HIT THEM
IT WAS ENOUGH...
...AND WITH THE POLICE AROUND, TOO MUCH BLOODSHED MIGHT BE AWKWARD FOR US
I SEE... AND NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO — TO SCREW UP ENOUGH DETERMINATION TO KILL ME, YOU POOR DEARS
WELL, PERHAPS I CAN SAVE YOU A LITTLE TROUBLE — I ALWAYS CARRY A SPECIAL CAPSULE WITH ME, JUST LIKE SPIES DO IN BOOKS, YOU KNOW...
1568

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SUKI SPEAKS IN A QUAVERING VOICE...

WELL... I'VE REACHED THE END OF MY ROAD AND I — I'D LIKE TO GO IN MY OWN WAY... I'VE GOT A LITTLE CYANIDE CAPSULE HERE AND I DO HOPE YOU WILL LET ME—
MODESTY'S HAND BLURS IN A SPLIT-SECOND DRAW
AND SUKI DIES... A GUN IN HER HAND
SHE 'AD ME FOOLED... HOW'D YOU KNOW, PRINCESS?
I DIDN'T, WILLIE... JUST PLAYED SAFE... FIGURED IF SHE WAS REACHING FOR CYANIDE, THIS WAY WOULDN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE
1569

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

I'D SAY SLASHER MUST BE ON HIS WAY DOWN BY NOW— AND FAST, IF HE HEARD THE SHOT
I'LL GO AN' SIGN 'IM OFF
ALL RIGHT—I'LL START RIGGING THE LAUNCH FOR A BURN-UP
FIVE MINUTES LATER, ON THE PATH LEADING DOWN THE CHINE, AN OUT-THRUST FOOT SENDS SLASHER SPRAWLING
1570

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SUKI'S CHIEF EXECUTIONER HEARS THE WHISPERING VOICE OF A MAN HE HAD THOUGHT DEAD

WE'VE DONE THE REST OF 'EM, SLASHER — SUKI AS WELL — YOU'RE THE LAST...

REMEMBER KICKING A KID CALLED AMANDA JONES TO A JELLY? THAT WAS BAD SUKI — FOR YOU!

WILLIE GARVIN RETURNS TO THE MOORING... HEAVILY BURDENED

WHERE D'YOU WANT THIS ONE, PRINCESS?

DOWN IN THE CABIN, WILLIE — SAME WITH THE REST OF THEM

1571

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

INSPECTOR BROOK COMES SLOWLY TO HIS SENSES

YOU SLIPPED GETTING OUT OF THE CAR — BANGED YOUR HEAD AND KNOCKED YOURSELF COLD

WHAT... WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?

DON'T GIVE ME THAT! YOU'RE A GODDAM LIAR, MODESTY!

THAT'S NOT VERY NICE, AFTER WE'VE SAT WITH YOU ALL THIS TIME JUST IN CASE SOME TRAMP CAME ALONG AND PINCHED YOUR WATCH

YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE YOU JUST SAT HERE FOR — MY GOD, FOR AN HOUR! — WHILE SUKI AND HER MOB GOT CLEAR?

THEY DIDN'T EXACTLY GET CLEAR, BROOKIE...

A BURNING LAUNCH PLOUGHS STEADILY OUT TO SEA

1572

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

SUKI AND HER HEAVY MOB GOT AWAY IN A LAUNCH, BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE CAUGHT FIRE, BROOKIE

BY A REMARKABLE PIECE OF LUCK — YES! AND YOU TWO HAVE BEEN SITTING HERE ALL THE TIME OF COURSE!

BLIMEY, NOW SHE'S BLOWN UP! THERE'LL BE NOTHING LEFT OF 'ER

AND THAT SAVES YOU TWO SOME AWKWARD QUESTIONS...

...YOU DON'T THINK ANY OF THEM COULD HAVE JUMPED OVERBOARD? MIGHT MANAGE TO SWIM ASHORE?

THERE WON'T BE ANY SURVIVORS, BROOKIE... TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT

1573

MODESTY BLAISE

by PETER O'DONNELL

ARE YOU COMING BACK TO SUKI'S HOUSE WITH ME?

NO BROOKIE, IT'S ALL YOURS FROM 'ERE ON — WE'VE 'AD A LONG NIGHT

YOU'LL FIND THE BIGGEST LOAD OF DRUGS THERE YOU'VE EVER SEEN IN ONE LUMP — AND LISTEN, KEEP US RIGHT OUT OF ANY REPORT!

ALL RIGHT... BUT SINCE WHEN DID YOU START CALLING THE SHOTS FOR THE PARTNERSHIP, WILLIE?

ONLY SINCE THE PRINCESS FELL ASLEEP — BUT YOU CAN RECKON I KNOW THE WAY SHE WANTS 'EM CALLED

'NIGHT, BROOKIE

1574